# BUILDING A LOCAL INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP

## COMPILATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT PRACTICES

BY THE **UCLG Committee** { Social Inclusion Participatory Democracy and Human Rights }

The following document contains **brief descriptions of twenty policies developed by local governments** across the world in the field of migrant inclusion and human rights protection and promotion. Some of them have been presented on the occasion of learning events and political debates hold by the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights (UCLG-CSIPDHR). When seen in perspective, they show the potential of local government action and innovation to address entrenched inequalities and social exclusion, promote a renewed social contract at the local level and redefine and enhance the sense of living together: thus, **build a renewed notion of citizenship that is local and inclusive**.

**Reach the UCLG-CSIPDHR Executive Secretariat** at **cisdp1@uclg.org** if you want to know more about any of these practices or how to better articulate these different topics.

## INCLUSION PRACTICES

≪ Fostering migrants' inclusion to the host society by shifting living together narratives, tackling discrimination and building cohesive communities ≫

| A local museum on migration | Montevideo, Uruguay |
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| **Challenge addressed** | Even though all cities are formed by migrant contributions in a way or another – residents coming from a country's rural hinterland or the four corners of the world – this fact is not always well addressed in public discourses and mainstream perceptions about local identity. Understanding the historical background of how migration impacts local life is essential to reaffirm today's cities as places built upon diversity, dialogue and exchange. |
| **Solution proposed** | Montevideo's **Museum on Migration** is devoted to addressing migration as a global phenomenon and a key feature of the city's reality. One of its main collections address past and present trends of migration in Uruguay. In recent times, it also addressed more contemporary issues. |
| **Takeaways** | • Museums are excellent spaces to trigger informed conversations on identity and belonging, not only for the permanent collections they host (context), but also for the activities, training events and open debates they organize about pressing present issues. |

| Responding to calls for public realm changes | LGA, United Kingdom |
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| Challenge addressed | The identity of country or a city are usually reflected in the public realm and built environment. From the name of streets to the presence of monuments celebrating past events and key individuals of the community. Choices made on this issue might act as a force of inclusion - recognizing diversity and addressing past trauma – or the opposite. |
| Solution proposed | Calls to take out memorials in the public realm related to past racist events have affected local conviviality and promoted local governments to take decisions in countries such as the United Kingdom. The British Local Government Association developed **a set of guidelines** and shared good practices to support local governments in finding inclusive solutions. |
| Takeaways | <ul><li>National local government associations and other supramunicipal entities are usually reactive to emerging trends affecting local governments and they have a role to play in informing their members about practical solutions and sharing good practices</li><li>As the guide notes, "*establishing a community dialogue can allow a divisive issue to become an opportunity for understanding on both sides*". It is key this dialogue represents all actors involved.</li><li>The role of local governments is also to ensure these debates are well informed, aiming at establishing a measure of objectivity through the participation of experts such as historians.</li></ul> |
| 🖥 | **1)** https://www.local.gov.uk/topics/community-safety/statues/responding-calls-public-realm-changes <br> **2)** http://www.whrcf.org/bbs/board.php?bo_table=eng_p4_02_2020&wr_id=28&page=2 |

| Fostering inclusion by living together | Utrecht, The Netherlands |
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| Challenge addressed | As a newcomer, it is not always easy to break informal barriers to inclusion such as getting to meet and even befriend other local people. Even though participating in local civic life and social events might offer a good opportunity to achieve this goal, there are many reasons to think why it is not always easy or accessible for migrant residents to do so. |

| Solution proposed | Utrecht's **Plan Einstein** project is built around an apartment building where local residents and newcomers live together - thus, supporting access to the right to housing while fostering conviviality and inclusion from day one. The project offers capacity building and training opportunities supporting migrants to learn the language or acquire skills. |
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| Takeaways | • There are many ways to provide opportunities for different members of the community to meet and share time together, and local governments are especially well suited to reinforce them (as many times they are promoted by civil society in the first place) |
| 🖥️ | **1)** https://plan-einstein.nl/ <br> **2)** https://uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/utrecht%E2%80%99s-co-mayor-linda-voortman-joining-uclg-csipdhr-co-presidency-renewed |

| Fostering inclusion through sport activities | | Granollers, Spain |
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| Challenge addressed | Fostering inclusiveness at the level of the local youth community is not always easy. Schools are of course an essential feature of this effort, as these are the shared space for all young city residents to come together and build strong community bonds in the long term. However, more "informal" or "ludic" spaces are usually needed to reinforce this effort. | |
| Solution proposed | Granollers has long developed an education and sports policy which seeks to foster social inclusion processes among the youth population in alternative settings. Inclusion through sport is a key feature of this vision, building especially on the rich local ecosystem of sport clubs, as well as on the participation in European projects such as "Sport!Op!" | |
| Takeaways | • Each city can take advantage of the specific levels of mobilization it has with regards to a specific sport or leisure activity. <br> • Cities can develop a global vision for their education and youth inclusion policy based on concepts such as "Educative City" | |
| 🖥️ | **1)** https://granollers.cat/ajuntament/sportop | |

| Organizing a national festival on human rights cities | | Indonesian cities |
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| Challenge addressed | Human rights are usually seen as too abstract or universal values, if one thinks of their true value as guiding principles for local action in the field. Raising awareness on this fact at the community level is as much essential as it is to recognize the contribution of all stakeholders in locally promoting human rights – as well as to foster cooperation. | |
| Solution proposed | The **Festival Ham** is the main meeting point for local human rights activists and practitioners in Indonesia, celebrated yearly to promote the human rights city vision. It aims to raise awareness among public officials on the importance of advancing human rights from the bottom up, as well as on the opportunity it provides to build more cohesive territories. | |
| Takeaways | • Raising public officials' awareness on human rights is not only a matter of becoming aware of obligations or responsibilities, but also seeing the potential behind human rights action (policy transformation, public recognition and legitimacy) | |

| Antiracism as a common good | Torino, Italy |
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| Challenge addressed | Antiracism is a key political struggle and fundamental principle of the rights-based approach. However, as most countries across the world are facing a global backlash against human rights, racist episodes and related exclusion patterns are on the rise again – sometimes even propelled by public discourses. |
| Solution proposed | As the "Urban Commons" approach has been adopted by Italian cities to promote municipalization of public services or urban renewal, Torino adopted this vision to recognize antiracism as a common good. This shows public authorities' commitment to this struggle and offers a framework to coordinate action in areas like public officers training, capacity building and awareness raising. |
| Takeaways | • Taking a public commitment in favor of addressing racism in both the public realm and the social one sends a powerful message as much as it can trigger concrete policy changes |
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| Intercultural dialogue in the public space | Nador, Morocco |
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| Challenge addressed | Addressing entrenched racist and discrimination trends at the community level is no easy task. It requires long-term action and social dialogue. Raising awareness and creating spaces for conviviality and bonding, usually in positive and inclusive terms, can be of particular help. |
| Solution proposed | Nador, a city historically related to Moroccan migration towards other countries, has also become a crossroads territory for regional migratory routes. In order to address local population stereotypes towards migrants arriving and settling in this territory, local authorities worked with civil society to promote intercultural events. These take place in public spaces and aim at showcasing migrants' contribution to the host society. |

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| Takeaways | • Cities might kick off their intercultural dialogue policy by looking at already existing grassroots and civic organizing first<br>• Cities like Nador focused on positive and accessible topics, such as youth dialogue, food diversity or sport events in public space. |
| 🖥️🌐 | **1)** https://uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/guaranteeing-universal-rights-city-crossed-migratory-routes-nadors-local-action |

# RECOGNITION PRACTICES

≪ Developing participatory democracy mechanisms to advance migrants' right to participate in public affairs and support civic engagement ≫

| Consultative Council of Foreign Residents | | Grenoble, France |
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| Challenge addressed | Most countries deprive the right to vote to residents without citizenship status. This and other barriers do not only prevent migrant residents to participate normally in public affairs (a fundamental right) but also affect the policy process negatively, as the views and personal experience of a large part of society tends to become much less represented. | |
| Solution proposed | Grenoble counts with a consolidate participatory democracy mechanism – the **Consultative Council of Foreign Residents** – to engage migrant residents in several local policy-making processes: concerning migration policy, action on non-discrimination and decentralized cooperation. | |
| Takeaways | • Migrants' participation in the policy-making process might contribute positively to its outcomes (due to their insight knowledge) and help gain trust and policy legitimacy. | |
| 🖥️🌐 | **1)** https://www.grenoble.fr/94-conseil-consultatif-des-residents-etrangers-grenoblois.htm **2)** https://uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/grenoble-promotes-notion-inclusive-citizenship-through-participation-and-human | |

| Municipal Council of Migrant Residents | | Sao Paulo, Brazil |
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| Challenge addressed | Barriers to participation also affect the inclusion path of migrant residents in terms of full recognition in the host society. Indeed, participation acts also as a vehicle for symbolic recognition and enjoying full political membership in a democratic community. | |
| Solution proposed | Sao Paulo's **Municipal Council of Migrant Resident's** is similar to that of Grenoble, as it brings together representatives of migrant organizations and individuals to co-create the local policy on migration. Due to its internal democratic procedures and the public | |

| | profile of most of its activities, it also contributes to publicly recognizing migrants' contribution and civic engagement. |
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| Takeaways | • Participation is in itself a vehicle for inclusion and public recognition not only of an individual alone, but also of a larger group or community contribution to the city. |
| 🖥️🌐 | **1)** https://www.prefeitura.sp.gov.br/cidade/secretarias/direitos_humanos/imigrantes_e_trabalho_decente/conselho_municipal_de_imigrantes/index.php |



| Participatory budgeting for migrant workers | | Taoyuan, Taiwan |
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| Challenge addressed | Local policies originally intended to benefit migrant residents in a way or another might struggle to achieve positive outcomes if they have not been developed in closed cooperation with the same migrant community first. This lack of participation might affect the result of policies negatively, as well as deepen patterns of political and social exclusion. | |
| Solution proposed | Taoyuan's **Participatory Budget** was awarded the 2017 IOPD Distinction due to its focus on empowering migrants through participation. Through successful cooperation with private and social stakeholders, local authorities created participation pathways for migrant residents on how to spend the municipal budget allocated to leisure activities. | |
| Takeaways | • Engaging various local stakeholders in a Public-Private-Partnership scheme that involves also civil society is a promising vehicle to deliver meaningful change beyond policy alone: for instance, it actively involves business into improving their relationship to employees and to better contribute to city life. | |
| 🖥️🌐 | **1)** https://oidp.net/distinction/en/record01.2018.php | |

| Human Rights Protection Council | | Quito, Ecuador |
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| Challenge addressed | Human rights violations take place on a daily basis at the local level. This refers specially to entrenched social exclusion patterns affecting specific communities and minorities. Episodes of discrimination or economic inequality are only two examples of this recurring phenomenon. | |
| Solution proposed | Quito's **Human Rights Protection Council** offers a meeting point for local human rights defenders and representatives of "priority groups" (including migrants) to co-create the city's social inclusion policy. | |

| Takeaways | • Human Rights Protection Councils such as the one of Quito are essential to bring the expertise and specific vision of priority groups directly to local policy-making processes. Therefore, they contribute to have a more accountable policy that is also more effective in tackling the goals it proposes to address. |
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| 🖥️ | **1)** https://proteccionderechosquito.gob.ec/consejo-de-proteccion-2/ |

| Municipal Council on Migration | Barcelona, Spain |
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| Challenge addressed | Many stakeholders work daily at the local level to promote the social inclusion of migrant residents and different forms of intercultural dialogue. These include municipal officers and other public institutions, civil society groups and migrants' grassroots initiatives. However, their actions might become less effective if not synchronized with each other. |
| Solution proposed | The **Municipal Council on Migration** is a key institution in Barcelona's human rights policy, as it offers a meeting point for civil society and religious groups' representatives to foster interreligious dialogue and secure freedom of thought, belief and religion. Its contribution is key to raise awareness on episodes of discrimination and to co-create policy. |
| 🖥️ | **1)** https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/consell-municipal-immigracio/en/  **2)** https://uclg-cisdp.org/en/observatory/barcelona%E2%80%99s-office-non-discrimination-local-policy-aimed-guaranteeing-human-rights-all |



# CARING PRACTICES

≪ Securing access to universal rights and transforming local public administrations so they are more inclusive and better accessible ≫

| A guide to raise awareness on how to access rights | Grenoble, France |
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| Challenge addressed | Accessing public administration might be challenging for some migrant residents due to barriers related to administrative issues or language knowledge. This might even derive into situations where migrants are not even aware of what are their rights or how can they access them. |
| Solution proposed | The city of Grenoble developed, in partnership with civil society stakeholders, an informative guide aimed at describing access to rights pathways for migrant residents in French territory, regardless of which is the public administration responsible for granting these rights. |
| Takeaways | • Local governments are a key stakeholder in raising awareness on how to access rights granted by public administration |

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| | • Exploring innovative, visual and responsive formats is essential in developing more engaging and far reaching strategies |
| 🖥️🌐 | **1)** https://es.calameo.com/read/004190376b474d839c2ee?page=1 <br> **2)** https://uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/grenoble-promotes-notion-inclusive-citizenship-through-participation-and-human |



| Developing local channels to access citizenship rights | Barcelona, Spain |
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| **Challenge addressed** | Not having a residence permit is a systematic barrier for migrant residents' interaction with public administration and even public space. Indeed, an encounter with police officers might lead into a migrants' sudden confinement in a detention center and sudden deportation. |
| **Solution proposed** | Barcelona has aimed at making it easier for migrants to access citizenship rights and access public space safely. This includes actively registering migrants' in the "padró" (municipal registering system) and proving their belonging to the city through a personalized report (*informe d'arrelament*) and local ID card (*document de veïnatge*) |
| **Takeaways** | • Considering each national legal context, municipalities can develop soft law mechanisms to support migrants' in their quest to achieve resident status |
| 🖥️🌐 | **1)** https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/novaciutadania/es/tramites <br> **2)** https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/novaciutadania/sites/default/files/documents/document_veinatge_web_2019.pdf |

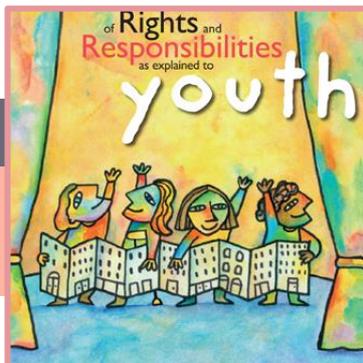| Supporting vulnerable migrant communities | Sfax, Tunisia |
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| **Challenge addressed** | Even though the COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated many entrenched vulnerabilities and forms of exclusion, it has also made it more difficult for local governments to access vulnerable communities, which have also suffered greatly from discrimination and sudden lack of resources. |
| **Solution proposed** | In cooperation with civil society organizations, the municipality of Sfax coordinated a local taskforce to secure vulnerable migrants' access to food and other basic facilities in the context of the pandemic. Efforts focused on channeling solidarity and building trust at the local level. |
| **Takeaways** | • Local governments are increasingly shifting the way they interact with local residents, especially vulnerable ones, adopting a more proactive approach to tracking and addressing vulnerabilities. |

| A human rights policy for the city | Vienna, Austria |
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| **Challenge addressed** | Human rights are often seen as an international agenda which mainly refers to gross human rights violations and which has national governments as the only actor involved in its promotion. However, human rights violations also occur on a daily basis in urban territories worldwide. |
| **Solution proposed** | After adoting its own **local human rights law**, Vienna developed a local human rights office and policy to mainstream human rights values in local governance (non-discrimination, accountability…), as well as carry out specific actions on areas like awareness raising on non-discrimination, protection of the rights of the child or developing caring policies. |
| **Takeaways** | • Mainstreaming human rights into the whole local administration might provide a "transformative" approach to public attention (What are the root causes behind inequality? How can we tackle them?) and help build citizens trust in their own administration. |
| | **1)** https://www.wien.gv.at/english/social/integration/human-rights/index.html **2)** https://uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/look-vienna%E2%80%99s-human-rights-system-interview-human-rights-commissioner-shams-asadi |

| A human rights accountable local administration | Gwangju, South Korea |
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| **Challenge addressed** | Residents might find it hard to find a place to go to denounce when their rights have been violated. Indeed, creating local accountability and access to justice mechanism is essential for this effort. This can also contribute greatly to residents' gaining more trust in local institutions. |
| **Solution proposed** | In line with its long-lasting human rights commitment, Gwangju has developed various mechanisms – e.g. an ombudsperson system, a human rights committee - allowing residents and local rights defenders to report human rights violations. This includes a wide range of areas, from access to education to discrimination against minorities. |
| **Takeaways** | • Establishing accountability mechanisms is essential to advance human rights at the local level and building residents' trust. It offers an alternative channel to engage and even support public action in their quest to be more accountable and transparent. |
| | **1)** https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/LocalGvt//Local/20190222Gwangju.docx **2)** https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/report-gwangju%E2%80%99s-delegation-barcelona-and-visit-secretariat-our-committee-and-uclg |

| Locally supporting migrant women access to justice | Pikine, Senegal |
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| **Challenge addressed** | Many migrant women face specific challenges in trying to enjoying a full right to the city and knowledge of their own rights. Furthermore, when victims of sexual violence or gender-based violence (even in their close environment), they would not necessarily see local public authorities as an institution which is able to provide help and assistance to their case. |

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| Solution proposed | The city of Pikine hosts a **Rights Office** (*Boutique des droits*) aimed at supporting migrant women (especially internal migration from Senegal's rural hinterland) to better know what are their rights, especially deriving from family law. The Office also provides support to victims of sexual violence. This institution has been put in place thanks to a partnership agreement with a local NGO and the Italian Cooperation Agency. |
| Takeaways | • Public attention for migrant women provides a safe environment to address rights violations faced by this group particularly.<br>• Empowering civic initiatives supporting victims of human rights violations is key: human rights cities are not only built by local government direct action, but all of the society involvement. |
| 🖥️🌐 | **1)** https://femmesjuristes.org/?page_id=680 |



| Adopting a local charter for human rights | Montreal, Canada |
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| Challenge addressed | In their effort to bring human rights home, local governments might struggle to operationalize international human rights law into practical principles for day to day action. Cities are home to specific priorities and policy process where human rights values come to life and evolve. |
| Solution proposed | The **Charter of Rights and Responsibilities** provides Montreal with a guiding vision and "local social contract" for social inclusion and participatory democracy policies. The Charter pioneered local government reflection and practices seeking to bring the rights-based approach closer to local life and guarantee universal access for all residents. |
| Takeaways | • It might be a good idea to operationalize a local government human rights commitment into specific areas, such leisure and physical and sports activities or economic and social life<br>• Cities tend to adopt their own human rights commitments building on their specific needs, priorities and backgrounds<br>• Human rights and participatory democracy are usually developed in close synergy in local government initiatives in the field |
| 🖥️🌐 | **1)** https://montreal.ca/en/topics/montreal-charter-rights-and-responsibilities<br>**2)** https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/LocalGvt/Local/20190227Montreal1.doc |

| Sanctuary city: Supporting the migrant community | Atlanta, US |
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| Challenge addressed | Faced to national or federal government restrictions to migrants' access to rights, as seen in various corners of the world, local governments are faced with the need to continue building social cohesion at the community level, as well as to secure social inclusion pathways that allow migrants to continue prospering and contributing to the host society. |
| Solution proposed | Atlanta developed its flagship **Welcoming Atlanta** policy with a view to showcase the city's public commitment to remain inclusive towards the migrant community. In order to further develop this vision, it offers capacity building programmes (language learning) but also supports residents' citizenship and naturalization process through counselling. |
| Takeaways | • Cities are increasingly becoming a political space and an institution to showcase a society's commitment to remain inclusive and well accessible – both nationwide and globally.<br>• Due to their knowledge of administrative procedures, cities can provide support to migrants' access to naturalization process. |
|  | **1)** https://www.welcomingatlanta.com/citizenship/ |